[28th September 1955

Minor Irrigation Works in South Arcot district

* 2514 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount under various heads sanctioned for minor irrigation works for South Arcot district for the year 1954–55;

(*b*) the amount of the estimated cost of such works;

(*c*) the amount spent up to 31st October 1954; and

(*d*) the steps taken to speed up the works and to spend the entire amount sanctioned?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) *to* (*c*) A statement [a] is laid on the table of the House.

(*d*) The allotment sanctioned for the year 1954–55 has mostly been spent during the year itself. The Board of Revenue receives monthly progress reports of expenditure on the works, reviews them and issues suitable instructions to the Collectors. The Government also receive a copy of the Board's review and pass appropriate orders after examining the review.

SRI S. THINAKARASAMY THEVAR : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any amount unspent and surrendered by the department of the district concerned for the year 1954–55 and whether such a surrender has been made due to the inefficiency of the department or due to any special reason?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, this question relates to the South Arcot district and not to Madurai or any other district.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Considering the number of tanks in the district of South Arcot, the sum of Rs. 2 lakhs allotted to this district is not at all sufficient. May I therefore request the Hon. Minister to allot larger amounts to this district under this head in view of the larger number of minor irrigation tanks and ayacut in this district than any other district in this State?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, the policy of the Government is to allot more money for minor irrigation works taking the State as a whole. According to that policy, the hon. Member's suggestion will also be taken into consideration.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : In South Arcot district, northern half of it are dry taluks and they have to depend on rain water for irrigation. May I request the Hon. Minister to issue directions to the Collector to allot more funds at least to Gingee and Tindivanam taluks?

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[a] **Printed as Appendix III on page 446 infra.**

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : There is no point in issuing instructions to the Collector. The Government have to allot money and I have already stated that it is the policy of the Government to take the State as a whole.

Damages due to heavy rains in Mannargudi and Tiruturaipundi taluks

* 2515 *Q.*—SRI A. K. SUBBIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the places where breaches occurred on account of the heavy rains on 20th October 1954 at Mannargudi and Tiruturaipundi taluks;

(*b*) how many villages have been affected by the flood;

(*c*) the extent of lands on which crops had been grown, that were submerged;

(*d*) whether the Government have given relief to the people affected by the flood; and

(*e*) if so, the amount spent on relief measures?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) A statement [a] is laid on the table of the House.

(*b*) Sixteen villages in Mannargudi taluk and 71 villages in Tiruturaipundi taluk.

(*c*) About 1,000 acres in Mannargudi taluk and 16,379·24 acres in Tiruturaipundi taluk were affected.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) A sum of Rs. 9,709 has been allotted for disbursement to those who lost their huts. In addition to this, sarees, dhoties, shirtings, towels, costing Rs. 3,500 and 18½ bags of rice were distributed to the distressed people. Rs. 10,000 have been provided for the grant of loan to the mirasdars under the Agricultural Loan Act.

Mid-day meals in Harijan Welfare schools

* 2516 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the circumstances under which the contractors supplying mid-day meals in the Harijan Welfare Schools in the districts can be changed or whether they can be changed according to the will and pleasure of the respective District Harijan Welfare Officers? 11-40 a.m.

[a] **Printed as Appendix IV on pages 447–448 infra.**